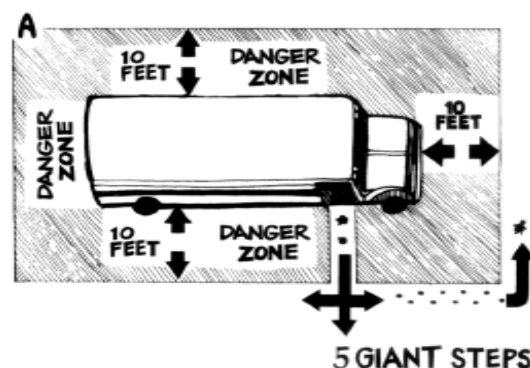


STEPS FOR SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Students are at much greater risk of being killed as a pedestrian in a school bus loading zone than as a passenger in a school bus. Most of the children killed in school bus-related crashes are pedestrians, ages five to seven, struck getting on or off the bus. Parents must ensure that their children know how to safely travel to and from the school bus stop, wait at the stop, get on and off the school bus, and behave while riding the bus.



TIPS FOR PARENTS

- ◆ Walk your child to and from the school bus stop.
- ◆ Stay with your child in the morning until she boards the bus. This is especially important with young children.
- ◆ Supervise your child to make sure he gets to the stop on time, waits five "giant steps" from the road, and avoids rough play.
- ◆ Teach your child to ask the driver for help if she drops something near the bus. If a child stoops to pick up something, the driver cannot see her and the child could be hit by the bus. A book bag or backpack helps keep loose items together.
- ◆ If you think a bus stop is in a dangerous place, talk with your school administration office or transportation director about changing the location.
- ◆ Review your child's clothes and school items for safety:
 1. Drawstrings, straps and dangling items can become caught on the school bus handrail or door. Make sure clothing has no loose drawstrings and backpack straps are short.
 2. Yellow rain slickers blend in with the school bus and make the child less noticeable to the school bus driver.

TIPS TO TEACH YOUR CHILD

- ◆ Teach your child the four rules for getting on and off the bus safely:
 1. When loading, stay away from the danger zone (figure A) and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus in single file.
 2. When unloading, look before stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). Move away from the side of the bus.
 3. Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen. Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross.
 4. When crossing the street in front of the bus, look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Continue to watch for traffic when crossing.
- ◆ Teach your child the rules for riding the bus safely:
 1. Stay seated – NEVER stand on a moving bus
 2. Don't distract the driver
 3. Face forward
 4. Keep arms, legs, and head inside the bus
 5. Keep aisles clear
 6. Speak in a soft voice
 7. Obey the bus driver



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